



# REACHING OUT

Sunday January 5, 2025

**9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church**

*Anglican tradition led by Fr. Jacques Jeffries*

**No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church**

## Bible Readings for Sunday January 5

Christmas 2

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:(1-9), 10-18

### The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.



No one has ever seen God,  
but the one and only Son, who is himself God  
and is in closest relationship with the Father,  
has made him known.

**John 1:18**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."' ) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace

and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**John 1:(1-9), 10-18**

## Bible Readings for Sunday January 12

Baptism of Jesus

Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

## Praying For One Another 2024

**In the Uniting Church Presbytery of North East Victoria.**

Congregations in the Presbytery are called to pray for one another each time they meet. By naming each other in prayer we enhance our pastoral support with each other, in God's company. This invitation builds our faith linkages every year. This week we pray for the congregations of **Beechworth, Stanley, Yackandandah and Myrtleford-Whorouly** Sunday January 5

## A FUTURE HOPE

### Rev Leonie Findlay

#### **PRAYER.**

Loving God, you have knit together your people in one communion and community, within the mystical body of Jesus Christ.

Give us grace to follow you in all faithful living. That we may participate in the inexpressible joy which you have prepared for all who love you.

Lord, may we be strengthened by a love and hope that only you can give.

With such gifts possessing us, we may serve you boldly.

Lord, we praise and thank you for our true hope, a sure and certain hope in your son.

We pray that each morning we might rise ready to live each day in the awareness of your presence. An awareness that leads us on to a hope that only you can give.

For your name's sake.

**AMEN**

#### **SOME THOUGHTS.**

While joy and hope are words often used interchangeably, they are emotions that while being close are different in nature. It could be said that while hope is something other than positive thinking, joy is other than happiness. Wishes and happiness generally refer to things and events. And hope and joy are spiritual gifts rooted in an intimate relationship with the one who loves us with an everlasting love. Hope in God allows us to rejoice in his presence even when that for which we hope may not be realised.

'Is there hope?' is a question we all ask, whether in a crisis, or a challenge that seems insurmountable. Unlike optimism, Christian hope does not opt out when faced with harsh realities.

To hope is as human as to love. Even in the darkest situations we can find hope.

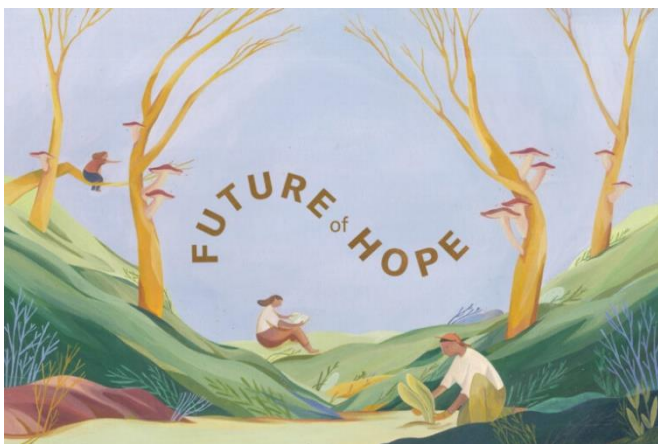
The reason for the realism of Christian hope is the fact that it is cast in the mould of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.

Christian hope can face any situation, because it is not based on changeable circumstances, but on a settled conviction that nothing can overtake us that Christ has not taken care of. It is willing to risk all on the reality of the resurrection. We welcome the future because it bears the face of Christ.

Some of the most hopeful and joyful moments in life are moments of great emotional and physical pain. At such times many cry out in their pain to God who has become their only hope and true source of joy. When we trust that God is truly with us holding us safe in a divine embrace, guiding every one of our steps, we can let go of our anxious need to know what our future holds. Rather we can be fully present in the moment and as such can be attentive to the many signs of God's love and the gift of hope above and around us.

**SELAH**

#### **BENEDICTION**



Faith needs the food of scripture, the rest of prayer and friends who dry our tears with their dedication and encouragement. Faith that grows hope needs to be rocked in the rhythms of community and the hymns that rise in our hearts.

**AMEN**

## Emmanuel Roster

### January 5

Elder on Duty: Rod Clutterbuck  
Reader: Carol Harris  
Prayers: Rod Clutterbuck  
Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

TV Screen: Harold Cover  
Usher: Carol Harris  
Organist: Betty Bjorksten

### January 12

Elder on Duty: Carol Harris  
Reader: Ted Stabb  
Prayers: Jenny Mathieson  
Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

TV Screen: Harold Cover  
Usher: Rod Clutterbuck  
Organist: LouAnne Stabb

## Coming Events

Wed January 16, 8:30am Grounds and Maintenance  
10:30am Morning Tea and Fellowship  
Craft group resumes in February  
Sun February 23, 10:15am Annual General Meeting of the Congregation after Worship

## Ministers of the Word & Other Contacts

UCA: Rev. Leonie Findlay  
0419 990 358  
[lfindlay03@bigpond.com](mailto:lfindlay03@bigpond.com)

Anglican: Fr Jacques Jefferies  
02 6024 2129 or 0434 063 069  
[stjohnsw@bigpond.net.au](mailto:stjohnsw@bigpond.net.au)  
[weekly RDO: Friday]

Emmanuel Pastoral Care: speak with an Elder or Warden  
Emmanuel Prayer Chain: give requests to Betty Saggars on 0427 761 044  
Address: PO Box 435, Wodonga 3689  
Office Phone: Emmanuel Meeting Place: (02) 6059 5460  
Reaching Out: Items to Harold Cover 02 6024 7929 [hcover@bigpond.com](mailto:hcover@bigpond.com)  
or LouAnne Stabb 0419 644 769 [stabb@inet.net.au](mailto:stabb@inet.net.au) by Wednesday.

## Prayer of the Week

### World Council of Churches

Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine



24 November 2022, Jerusalem, Palestine: East Jerusalem at night, including the Dome of the Rock at Al Aqsa mosque.

Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

#### We are thankful for

- lands and monuments sacred in the origins of Judaism, Christianity and Islam
- those who unceasingly work for peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land
- the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel
- those who continue to welcome the multitudes of refugees in their lands.

#### We pray for:

- ending the violence racking this region, that the people might live together in peace, security and respect for each other
- those who have grown weary and disillusioned in searching for solutions
- an end to religious differences being exploited to perpetuate conflict and further displacement of people
- political leaders who will courageously bring about justice and reconciliation for the sake of all.

# FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

By Bill Pugh

God's calendar of life perfectly ordered, beautifully set out for us in the Book of Ecclesiastes.

We face a new year in 2025. We have our own personal calendars on the kitchen wall.

So many dates to fill in. Appointments, birthdays, special occasions, meetings, how will we have time to go on holidays and do other personal things?

And of course there are our responsibilities for our Christian faith and life, our Church.

## *Reflection:*

Helpful scripture comes from the Book of Lamentations.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 32-33

[www.victas.uca.org.au/resources](http://www.victas.uca.org.au/resources) | Photo by freepik.com | January 2025

## **Bequest**

*Remember the Church in your will.*

A bequest will help continue to work of the Church long after you're gone. There are many ways a bequest can help the work of the Church - whether for a specific cause that's dear to your heart, for a specific congregation or for the general purposes of the life of the Church.

### **Want to know more?**

Speak to your solicitor or financial advisor, or visit the Synod's website:

[www.victas.uca.org.au](http://www.victas.uca.org.au)